

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A capacitor, comprising:
 - a fixed charge plate disposed in a semiconductor substrate;
 - a moveable charge plate disposed above the fixed charge plate; and
 - a stiffener affixed to the moveable charge plate.

17. A microelectromechanical structure variable capacitor comprising:
 - a fixed charge plate disposed upon an elevated semiconductor substrate;
 - a fixed actuator plate disposed upon a lower semiconductor substrate,wherein the fixed actuator plate is below the fixed charge plate;
 - a moveable charge plate suspended above the fixed charge plate; and
 - a stiffener disposed upon the moveable charge plate.